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SENATE BILL 5969

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Kilmer, Becker, Carrell, Hobbs, Shin, Swecker, Conway, Eide, Rolfes, Harper, Kastama, Fain, Hatfield, King, Haugen, McAuliffe, Hargrove, Nelson, Tom, Pridemore, Keiser, Sheldon, Prentice, Hewitt, Zarelli, Baumgartner, Padden, Chase, Kline, Frockt, Brown, Kohl-Welles, Ranker, Murray, Regala, and Parlette

Read first time 12/02/11. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1            AN ACT Relating to procedures allowing certain military spouses to  
2 seek employment in state-licensed professional occupations after  
3 relocating to Washington; and adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The lives of military families are dominated  
6 by frequent deployments, relocations, and extended periods of single  
7 parenthood. Military spouses are some of the most mobile populations  
8 in our country, making the maintenance of professional licenses a  
9 significant obstacle. According to the 2010 defense management data  
10 center, there are thirty-three thousand three hundred eighty active  
11 duty and ten thousand eight hundred thirty-seven reserve military  
12 spouses residing in Washington. Military families depend on two  
13 incomes and want to achieve their goals and aspirations. It is the  
14 intent of the legislature to recognize the sacrifices made by military  
15 families in service to our country and our state and to help alleviate  
16 the hardships military families face due to their highly transient  
17 life.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) For the purposes of this section,  
2 "authority" means any board, commission, or other authority for  
3 issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under this  
4 title.

5        (2) To the extent resources are available:

6        (a) Each authority shall establish procedures to expedite the  
7 issuance of a license, certificate, or permit to perform professional  
8 services regulated by each such authority to a person:

9        (i) Who is certified or licensed in another state to perform  
10 professional services in that state;

11        (ii) Whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to  
12 Washington; and

13        (iii) Who left employment in the other state to accompany the  
14 person's spouse to Washington.

15        (b) The procedure must include: A process for issuing the person  
16 a license, certificate, registration, or permit, if, in the opinion of  
17 the authority, the requirements for licensure, certification,  
18 registration, or obtaining a permit of such other state are  
19 substantially equivalent to that required in Washington.

20        (c) Each authority in this title shall develop a method and adopt  
21 rules to authorize a person who meets the criteria in (a)(i) through  
22 (iii) of this subsection to perform services regulated by the authority  
23 in Washington by issuing the person a temporary license, certificate,  
24 registration, or permit for a limited period of time to allow the  
25 person to perform services regulated by the authority while completing  
26 any specific requirements that may be required in Washington that were  
27 not required in the other state in which the person is licensed,  
28 certified, or registered, or has a permit, unless the authority finds  
29 that the requirements for a license, certificate, registration, or  
30 permit of the other state are substantially unequal to Washington  
31 standards.

32        (d) An applicant must state in the application that he or she:

33        (i) Has requested verification from the other state or states that  
34 the person is currently licensed, certified, registered, or has a  
35 permit; and

36        (ii) Is not subject to any pending investigation, charges, or  
37 disciplinary action by the regulatory body of the other state or  
38 states.

1 (e) If the authority finds reasonable cause to believe that an  
2 applicant falsely affirmed or stated either of the requirements under  
3 (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, the authority may summarily suspend  
4 the license, certificate, registration, or permit pending an  
5 investigation or further action to discipline or revoke the license,  
6 certificate, registration, or permit.

7 (f) The regulating authority for the department of licensing, the  
8 department of health, and the department of labor and industries shall  
9 appear before the joint committee on veteran and military affairs in  
10 December 2012 to inform the committee as to their efforts to implement  
11 the requirements of this chapter.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a  
13 new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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